

- 1-15 (previously cancelled)
- 16. (currently amended) A method for the production of a protein with citrate lyase activity, said method comprising the steps of expressing a suitable plasmid in a host organism and isolating the protein in an active form, wherein the host organism is *E. coli* and wherein the plasmid comprises an inducible promoter and a gene cluster comprising the genes citC, citD, citE, citF, citX, and citG in that order from *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and wherein at least four of the genes citC, citD, citE, citF, and citG are derived from *Klebsiella pneumoniae* citX from *E. coli*.
- 17. (previously amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the genes code for certain subunits of the protein having citrate lyase activity and for components that contribute to the biosynthesis of the complete enzyme.
- 18. (previously cancelled)
- 19. (previously amended) The method of claim 16, wherein one of the genes codes for a 20 kDa protein.
- 20. (previously amended) The method of claim 16, wherein one of the genes codes for a protein containing the motif  $X_1$ -R-L- $X_2$ -D- $X_3$ -D-V, wherein  $X_1$  is optionally G or A,  $X_2$  is any amino acid, and  $X_3$  is optionally L or I.
- 21-23 (previously cancelled)
- 24-25 (cancelled)
- 26. (previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the expression occurs under aerobic conditions.
- 27-30 (cancelled)

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 24, 25, and 27-30.

Please amend claim 16 as shown on the Claims Listing dated 5/17/04 appended hereto.